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(54) **METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR GENERATING  
HALF TONE IMAGE AND COMPUTER  
PROGRAM PRODUCT**

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(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To reduce the quantity of ink to be used in a printer by defining holes to be not printed in a concentrated dot type dither matrix and arranging these holes in a relatively large dispersed distributed matrix in the concentrated dot type dither matrix.

SOLUTION: A reduced ink matrix 61 defines a region, i.e., a hole, in a dither matrix 53. A hole in a dither matrix 53 defines a region in a halftone image 54 which is not printed with ink under any conditions. In order to prevent the halftone image 54 from exhibiting a rough granular appearance in an image region having a relatively bright color tone, multiple holes are prevented from existing in the dither matrix 53. The reduced ink matrix 61 can be provided as a random dither matrix, e.g. a dispersed dot type dither matrix or a Bayer type matrix.

